

Environmental Epidemiology in Latin America



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Madre de Dios Region Peru

Environmental Sampling

- Collected 20 fish samples for mercury analysis
- Conducted air monitoring to examine the effects of indoor air pollution
- Collected over 1000 bug samples to characterize potential vectors for disease
- Collected 40 soil samples to test for risk factors for Leishmaniasis



The Madre de Dios River

The goal of the study is to monitor vulnerability to heavy metal contamination and emerging diseases as a result of small scale gold mining in the Peruvian Amazon.



The team administering anemia testing

Oral Health Prevention and Anemia Testing

- Worked with the regional health directorate in MDD to implement oral health and anemia prevention presentations in each community
- Worked with fieldworkers to administer anemia testing
- Dispensed 500 donations of toothbrushes, mouthwash, and toothpaste in each community
- Dispensed multivitamin supplements to help prevent anemia

Health Sampling

- Worked with Peruvian fieldworkers to conduct health surveys and collect 60 human samples.
- Collected hair and nail samples to analyze for heavy metal contamination.
- Collected blood samples to test for heavy metal contamination and presence of infectious diseases.



Students practicing oral hygiene techniques and anemia testing.



Essential Partners: Peruvian Ministry of Health, Naval Medical Research Unit - 6, DIRESA (the regional health directorate in MDD)

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